

**March 5, 2017 - Gen. 24:42-67 - Isaac marries Rebekah**

**Torah Readings: Gen. 24:42-67 - Isaac marries Rebekah**

**Psalm 18**

**Haftorah - Isaiah 12:3 – 13:4**

### **Rebekah's Agreement**

We already covered most of this last week, but there is an important point in the story relevant to each of us.

**Genesis 24:57-58** - "And they said, We will call the damsel, and enquire at her mouth. And they called Rebekah, and said unto her, Wilt thou go with this man? And she said, I will go."

As the bride, Rebekah had to agree. So do we. Although this was an arranged marriage, the Jewish sages derive from the story of Rebekah that no one may be married against their choice. This remained the practice within the Jewish community.

As a type of the bride of Christ, Rebekah at this critical point had to accept the gift of the earrings and bracelets. And she had to say "amen" to the arrangement.

This meant she would leave all the family she had ever known to go to a strange place and be married to someone she had not seen.

We are all faced with a similar choice:

**Mark 8:34** - "And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

**Revelation 22:17** - "... let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price."

Another way of agreement is by saying "Amen." Amen means "so be it." It means I agree that something is reliable, true, faithful, established, to be depended on.

Esther would be at a different crisis point when Mordecai proposes she approach the king about the danger her people faced.

**Esther 4:14** - "'For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?'"

The sovereignty of God would seem to make our agreement unnecessary (Ephesians 1:5, Romans 9:18-20). But He will not force anyone to believe. Our agreement displays and convinces us of his sovereignty. The contradiction is solved because the only real "amen" is Christ himself. If we are in him, his "amen" becomes ours.

Jesus used the word “amen” (translated as verily) at the beginning of his sayings, to affirm his own utterances, referring to his divinity. In **Revelation 3:14**, Jesus himself is referred to as, "the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation."

**2 Corinthians 1:20** - “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

In other words, Jesus himself was/is the proof of God’s true and established faithfulness to fulfill his promises.

### **No Delay**

The other important lesson here is Eleazar’s refusal to delay once Rebekah had agreed.

**Genesis 24:56** - “And he said unto them, Hinder me not, seeing the LORD hath prospered my way; send me away that I may go to my master.”

**Luke 9:51** - “He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.”

**Luke 9:62** - “And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”